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EDUCATIONAL GAINS AND PROBLEMS IN HUNGARY

DISPROPORTIONS IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT -- Budapest, Nepszava, 8 Feb 52

Children of the working people are attending the eight classes of the elementary schools in ever-increasing numbers. This year, of the 80,000 elementary school children, approximately 40,000 will enroll in high schools, and, of the 20,000 high school graduates, approximately 13,000 will enter universities and other institutes of higher learning. However, a certain disproportion exists in university enrollments. While applications for admittance to industrial, electrical, chemical engineering, medical, and pharmaceutical schools were very heavy, little interest was shown in teaching and natural science courses.

Although a decree of the Council of Ministers directs that the ratio of female university students should be the same as that of male students, the attendance of female students is lagging. At present, approximately 5,000 girls are enrolled in high schools.

The cause for this disproportion is that a substantial number of worker and peasant parents are still of the opinion that high schools are for the children of "higher" classes. Other parents persuade their children to quit school before graduation in order to earn a living. To eliminate these harmful influences, the party, the local councils, and the teachers must intensify their propaganda activities by stressing the importance of education. The aversion of females to the teaching profession must also be overcome.

Linguistic and cultural aspects of higher education were considerably widened. At the Russian Institutes, located at Budapest, Szeged, and Debrecen, students now have the opportunity to learn the Russian language and Marxism-Leninism from Soviet professors. -- Jozsef Kovacs, Deputy Minister of Education

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OVER 100,000 STUDENTS ATTEND HIGH SCHOOLS -- Budapest, Nepszava, 26 Feb 52

Enrollment in high schools and universities has substantially increased. While in the 1937 - 1938 school year there were 52,300 high school and 11,700 university students, this year 107,900 students are attending high schools and 40,700 are studying at the universities. In 1937, only 4 percent of the high school students were children of workers and peasants; today, 65.3 percent of high school students and 58.6 percent of university students are of worker and peasant stock.

Older persons are enrolling in greater numbers, too. More than 14,000 older students are attending high schools, and approximately 5,500 young workers and peasants are studying at technical high schools which prepare them for entrance to universities. The new agricultural schools have already trained thousands of experts for large-scale farming, who are introducing the outstanding methods of Soviet agriculture.

The Veszprem and Miskolc Technical Universities, the University for National Economy, and the institutes for foreign languages are ready to accept thousands of new students. All these are new institutions.

Teachers are urgently needed, especially those who are of worker and peasant origin. The trade unions and heads of enterprises and factories must give every support to workers who are anxious to raise their educational level. The practice of young workers interrupting their education in order to earn good wages must not be tolerated. -- Imre Fener, Head of Planning Department, Ministry of Education

REVEALS SCHOLASTIC DIFFICULTIES IN TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS -- Budapest, Nepszava, 16 Mar 52

In the 1952 - 1953 school year, the number of technical high school students will increase to approximately 8,000. Despite the rapid progress in enrollment, the technical schools are faced with grave scholastic problems because of the wrong interpretation of academic standards. For example, some teachers strive to condense the curricula of 6-8 years into one year.

In general, selection of teachers is also faulty. Not infrequently, persons who fail in the production field receive teaching appointments. Because of the employment of poor teachers, a number of students have graduated from high school without proper preparation and, as a result, have had to be dismissed later by the universities. To eliminate this anomalous situation, the one-year technical high schools will become 2-year institutions.

PROGRESS IN APPRENTICE TRAINING -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 12 Mar 52

Training of apprentices is progressing satisfactorily. While in the 1948 - 1949 school year two thirds of the apprentices were trained to become tailors, shoemakers, barbers, etc., now apprentices, almost without exception, are learning large-scale industrial, mining, and building trades. Their number has reached 7,000, including an increasing number of girls. This year, the ratio of girl apprentices is 20 percent.

More than 20,000 apprentices live in well-furnished homes. Adequately equipped shops are maintained for them by the steel industry, and particular emphasis is placed on the training of apprentice miners. The discipline, however, must be strengthened. In the first part of the present school year, 8.3 percent of the enrolled apprentices discontinued their training. Apprentice miners in particular are leaving the training school in great numbers.

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Absenteeism is also spreading. Some shops are guilty of maintaining inadequate training facilities, and the apprentices often have no qualified instructors.

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